

earning the Class IA title for the Illinois State Championship in the 100 and 200 meter dash for track and field.

Easton Bianchi ran 10.83 seconds in the 100 meter dash and 21.93 seconds in the 200 meter dash to claim his title as state champion, and I would like to recognize Easton for his tremendous accomplishment. Easton's dedication and passion for his sport meant that he was determined to win gold. As a former athlete, I understand the amount of hard work and commitment to be awarded such a title. Easton is an example of the importance of dedication and a strong work ethic. I am proud there is such young talent in our community, and to see him represent Sterling throughout the state.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to again formally congratulate Easton Bianchi on his title, and I join the rest of the community in wishing him every success in the future.

#### HONORING THE SACRIFICE OF CAMERON SMITH

#### HON. DOUG COLLINS

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, June 14, 2018*

Mr. COLLINS of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to remember Cameron Smith and Robert Bryant Wade, who lost their lives to a flooded creek near McNutt Creek Dam last week. In this time of grief, we also recognize Cameron's bravery in attempting to rescue Bryant from drowning.

Cameron's neighbors in Madison County will tell you what a considerate young man he was and how much he loved his family. Bryant's loved ones are already missing the kind and outgoing teenager.

When Cameron saw Bryant struggling against the water, he immediately told his friend to dial 911, and he dove in to save someone he'd never met. Sadly, neither young man found his way out of the swollen creek.

Mr. Speaker, Cameron and Bryant have left holes in their communities that my words can't capture, and Cameron's sacrifice reflects a selfless heroism that has become uncommon today.

As Northeast Georgia struggles with sadness over the loss of two young men, my prayers remain with their families and friends.

#### ASHLEY BRATCHER NAMED STAFFORD MSD TEACHER OF THE YEAR

#### HON. PETE OLSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, June 14, 2018*

Mr. OLSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Ashley Bratcher of Stafford, TX for being named the 2017–18 Stafford Municipal School District Teacher of the Year.

Ms. Bratcher has a passion for education and was chosen by her peers to be the 2017–2018 Teacher of the Year. She has taught math and science at Stafford Elementary School for the past six years and is known for her commitment to education, with the goal of making a life-changing difference each day.

Her excellence is evident in Stafford Elementary School's position in the Top 1 percent of Texas Elementary Schools. Ashley is a Fort Bend County native and graduated from Hightower High School and Texas A&M University, before receiving her master's degree in education from Concordia University. She is a tremendous educator who fights for her students in the classroom on a daily basis.

On behalf of the Twenty-Second Congressional District of Texas, congratulations again to Ashley Bratcher for being named the 2017–18 Stafford MSD Teacher of the Year. I thank her for her commitment to our children and excellence in the classroom.

#### ARMY BIRTHDAY

#### HON. TED POE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, June 14, 2018*

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, today, we honor the United States Army, the oldest of the five military branches, on the 243rd anniversary of its founding.

On June 14, 1775, America was under attack. The British forces occupied the city of Boston, but the minutemen of Massachusetts resisted. These patriots fought bravely at Lexington, Concord, and Bunker Hill, and inspired others from the surrounding colonies to join the fight.

The Second Continental Congress took note of their courage, and when they convened in May 1775, they set out to create an army for the defense of all of the colonies. On June 14th, Congress officially established the Army, and the next day appointed General George Washington as its commander. With his marching orders, Washington rode out to his new command, where he successfully drove the British out of Boston. The newly-formed Continental Army spurred the colonies to victory in gaining their independence from their British oppressors.

The Army has been steadfast in the defense of the American democracy ever since. During its illustrious history, the Army repelled the British attack on New Orleans, charged up San Juan Hill behind Teddy Roosevelt, and stormed the beaches of Normandy on D-Day. The Army ranks have always produced the best and brightest in America. Countless members of Congress and fifteen presidents wore Army uniforms before stepping into public office.

My father, TSgt Virgil Poe, served in the Army as a teenager, in combat, during the Second World War in Europe.

The service of these Americans has not come without sacrifice. In the course of history, hundreds of thousands of Americans in the Army have given their lives in defending our country from harm. We owe a deep debt of gratitude to this rare breed of men and women, the American breed.

Today, nearly half a million men and women make up the most formidable fighting force in the world. As artillery gunners, aviators, chaplains, cooks, dentists, doctors, engineers, infantrymen, intelligence officers, lawyers, nurses, tankmen, technicians, and veterinarians, these individuals are the backbone of the American military and continue to serve as they always have, with honor and distinction, and embody what it means to be Army Strong.

Mr. Speaker, the U.S. Army is a vital component of our democracy. They have protected us for 243 years, and wherever we go, you will always know that the Army goes rolling along.

And that is just the way it is.

#### RECOGNIZING THE ASSOCIATION OF THE UNITED STATES ARMY, MONMOUTH COUNTY CHAPTER

#### HON. CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, June 14, 2018*

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, today on the 243rd birthday of the U.S. Army, I take the opportunity to congratulate the Monmouth County, New Jersey, Chapter of the Association of the United States Army (AUSA) which has been designated as the AUSA's "Best Chapter 2017."

The designation represents the second year in a row that the Monmouth chapter has clinched this national top honor.

The award, given primarily for leadership and distinguished accomplishments in the service of U.S. Soldiers, Army civilians, and their families, was presented at the AUSA's Annual Meeting & Exposition held last Fall at the Walter E. Washington Convention Center in Washington, D.C.

During the opening ceremony of the 2017 association meeting—attended by more than 5,000 members and guests—AUSA Monmouth Chapter President Col. Samuel Fuoco (USA Ret.), Secretary Mrs. Ellie Smith, and Mr. Frank Brogna, of the Monmouth County Sheriff's Office were all presented the "Best Chapter 2017" banner by AUSA President & CEO Gen. Carter F. Ham (USA Ret.), and AUSA Vice President, Lt. Gen. Patricia E. McQuiston (USA Ret.).

Also, Mrs. Catherine C. "Kit" Roache, the Monmouth Chapter's Vice President of Programs and Community Partners, received the AUSA "2017 Major General Anthony J. Drexel Biddle Medal," awarded to the individual who has most contributed to the advancement and mission of association for the year.

Additionally, Chapter President Fuoco was presented with the AUSA "Greatest Reserve Component Increase—2017" streamer, for the greatest increase in membership.

Mr. Speaker, these awards are not lightly given or earned. The AUSA Monmouth Chapter was bestowed with these honors due to its extremely active and tireless work in supporting the U.S. Army and AUSA. The chapter has constantly supported our service members—Active and Reserve, past and present—through educational activities and raising money for many causes like support for New Jersey veterans and retirees, scholarships for JROTC high school students, the Fisher House Foundation, and their Service Dog initiative.

Chapter members and community partners regularly welcome new Army commanders at the nearby Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst. The chapter has supported Honor and Remember Flags for Gold Star Families who have lost a loved one in combat, and the New Jersey Run for the Fallen. It helps foster Veteran Service Organizations (VSO) training, and works to build civilian support in Monmouth County by participating in many educational, business and charity events.